

the suspension of protein is prepared by suspending 100 parts by weight of protein in 800 parts by weight of deionized water,

the protein suspension is proteolyzed at pH 3.5-6.0 for 10-12 hours in the presence of 2-4 parts by weight of protease to give the mixture of oligopeptides,

zinc ions are mixed with the mixture of oligopeptides in a weight ratio of zinc/oligopeptides of 1/1,000 and allowed to chelate, to yield the zinc-oligopeptide, and

the zinc-oligopeptide solution is concentrated to a solid content of 32-36% and dried to produce the zinc-oligopeptide powder.

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1-3 will remain pending in the above-identified application and stand ready for further action on the merits.

The amendments made herein to the claims do not incorporate new matter into the application as originally filed. For example, claims 4-6 have been cancelled based upon their withdrawal from consideration due to an earlier Restriction Requirement. Further, claim 2 has simply been amended to change the phrase "characterized in that" to "wherein". Entry of the present amendment is thus respectfully requested.